UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/1440
(FIJ/73/011)

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI

Senior Drainage and Irrigation Engineer (FIJ/73/011)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	October 1977
Starting date of project activities:	January 1974 (including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	December 1980
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	University of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$306 900
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. As part of its 1971-75 development plan, the Government of Fiji created the drainage and irrigation division in the Department of Agriculture in 1972, and this division identified the Rewa Basin and Navua as priority areas for the development of irrigated rice.

2. The division was headed, until 1973, by a senior drainage and irrigation engineer provided by the United Kingdom as part of its bilateral aid programme to Fiji. At that time the Government of Fiji concluded that continuity of this post was absolutely necessary and requested UNDP to assist in recruiting a qualified engineer to be posted as an OPAS adviser in the drainage and irrigation division head office at Suva. This project was first approved in January 1974 for that purpose.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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3. Project activities were expanded in 1977 to absorb a hydrologist post from the project, Irrigation and Drainage Engineer (FIJ/71/004), and the posts of irrigation and drainage engineer and an agricultural engineer from the project, Establishment of a Farm Mechanisation Unit (FIJ/72/002).[1] However, as a consequence of the floods arising from a cyclone that hit Vitti Levu, Fiji's largest island in April 1980, the Government decided to transfer all the resources combined under FIJ/73/011 to a new project, Hurricane Flood Rehabilitation (FIJ/80/017).[2]

4. In addition to the assistance provided by UNDP, the Government has also received assistance from the United Kingdom and the Australian Government to finance a number of posts within the drainage and irrigation division plus capital aid. The US Peace Corps has also provided volunteers to the survey section of the drainage and irrigation department.

II. Objectives and activities

5. The immediate objectives of this project are to develop 3,000 acres of irrigated land for double cropping of rice and provide technical services for local drainage boards established in the sugar-cane growing areas. The present revision provides expertise required to continue further with the development of drainage and irrigation schemes.

III. Inputs

6. Under the assistance now approved UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, the services of a hydrologist, a senior drainage and irrigation engineer and an agricultural engineer.

7. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved, the Government of Fiji will meet the cost of salaries and benefits for the OPAS experts estimated at $25,000 plus a contribution in kind estimated at $2,000,000.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	94 800	297 500	392 300
Equipment	-	5 000	5 000
Miscellaneous	-	3 900	3 900
	94 800	306 400	401 200

9. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $67,687 in kind.

1/ DP/PROJECTS/2018.
2/ DP/PROJECTS/R.13/Add.7.

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